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U.S. energy industry methane emissions are triple what government thinks, study finds



A flare burns at a well pad Aug. 26, 2021, near Wafford City, N.D.

Associated Press
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U.S. energy industry methane emissions are triple what government thinks, study finds



Oil pump jacks operate at dusk near Barnes City, Texas, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

American oil and natural gas wells, pipelines and compressors are spewing three times the amount of the potent heat-trapping gas methane as the government thinks, causing \$9.3 billion in yearly climate damage, a new comprehensive study calculates.

But because more than half of these methane emissions are coming from a tiny number of oil and gas sites, 1% or less, this means the problem is both worse than the government thought but also fairly fixable, said the lead author of a study in Wednesday's journal *Nature*.

The same issue is happening globally. Large methane emissions events around the world detected by satellites grew 50% in 2023 compared to 2022 with more than 5 million metric tons spotted in major fossil fuel leaks, the International Energy Agency reported Wednesday in their *Global Methane Tracker 2024*. World methane emissions rose slightly in 2023 to 120 million metric tons, the report said.

"This is really an opportunity to cut emissions quite rapidly with targeted ef-

forts at these highest emitting sites," said lead author Evan Sherwin, an energy and policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Lab who wrote the study while at Stanford University. "If we can get this roughly 1% of sites under control, then we're halfway there because that's about half of the emissions in most cases."

Sherwin said the fugitive emissions come throughout the oil and gas production and delivery system, starting with gas flaring. That's when firms release natural gas to the air or burn it instead of capturing the gas that comes out of energy extraction. There's also substantial leaks throughout the rest of the system, including tanks, compressors and pipelines, he said.

"It's actually straightforward to fix," Sherwin said.

In general about 3% of the U.S. gas produced goes wasted into the air, compared to the Environmental Protection Agency figures of 1%, the study found. Sherwin said that's a substantial amount, about 6.2 million tons per hour in leaks measured over the daytime. It could be lower at night, but they don't have

those measurements. The study gets that figure using one million anonymized measurements from airplanes that flew over 52% of American oil wells and 29% of gas production and delivery system sites over a decade. Sherwin said the 3% leak figure is the average for the six regions they looked at and they did not calculate a national average.

Methane over a two-decade period traps about 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide, but only lasts in the atmosphere for about a decade instead of hundreds of years like carbon dioxide, according to the EPA.

About 30% of the world's warming since pre-industrial times comes from methane emissions, said IEA energy supply unit head Christophe McGlade. The United States is the No. 1 oil and gas production methane emitter, with China polluting even more methane from coal, he said.

Last December, the Biden administration issued a new rule forcing the U.S. oil and natural gas industry to cut its methane emissions. At the same time at the United Nations climate negotiations in Dubai, 50 oil com-

panies around the world pledged to reach near zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in operations by 2030. That Dubai agreement would trim about one-tenth of a degree Celsius, nearly two-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit, from future warming, a prominent climate scientist told The Associated Press.

Monitoring methane from above, instead of at the sites or relying on company estimates, is a growing trend. Earlier this month the market-based Environmental Defense Fund and others launched MethaneSAT into orbit. For energy companies, the lost methane is valuable with Sherwin's study estimate it is worth about \$1 billion a year.

About 40% of the global methane emissions from oil, gas and coal could have been avoided at no extra cost, which is "a massive missed opportunity," IEA's McGlade said. The IEA report said if countries do what they promised in Dubai they could cut half of the global methane pollution by 2030, but actions put in place so far only would trim 20% instead, "a very large gap between emissions and actions," McGlade said.

"It is critical to reduce methane emissions if the world is to meet climate targets," said Cornell University methane researcher Robert Horwath, who wasn't part of Sherwin's study.

"Their analysis makes sense and is the most comprehensive study by far out there on the topic," said Horwath, who is updating figures in a forthcoming study to incorporate the new data.

The overflight data shows the biggest leaks are in the Permian basin of Texas and New Mexico.

"It's a region of rapid growth, primarily driven by oil production," Sherwin said. "So when the drilling happens, both oil and gas comes out, but the main thing that the companies want to sell in most cases was the oil. And there wasn't enough pipeline capacity to take the gas away" so it spewed into the air instead.

Contrast that with tiny leak rates found in drilling in the Denver region and the Pennsylvania area. Denver leaks are so low because of local strictly enforced regulations and Pennsylvania is more gas-oriented, Sherwin said.

This shows a real problem with what National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association methane-monitoring scientist Gabrielle Petron calls "super-emitters."

"Reliably detecting and fixing super-emitters is a low hanging fruit to reduce real life greenhouse gas emissions," Petron, who wasn't part of Sherwin's study, said. "This is very important because these super-emitter emissions are ignored by most 'official' accounting." Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson, who also wasn't part of the study, said, "a few facilities are poisoning the air for everyone."

"For more than a decade, we've been showing that the industry emits far more methane than they or government agencies admit," Jackson said. "This study is capstone evidence. And yet nothing changes." □

Judge dismisses some charges against Trump in the Georgia 2020 election interference case

By KATE BRUMBACK and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The judge overseeing the Georgia 2020 election interference case on Wednesday dismissed some of the charges against former President Donald Trump and others, but the rest of the sweeping racketeering indictment remains intact.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee quashed six counts in the indictment, including three against Trump, the presumptive 2024 Republican presidential nominee. But the judge left in place other counts including 10 facing Trump and said prosecutors could seek a new indictment to try to reinstate the ones he dismissed.

The ruling is a blow for Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who already is facing an effort to have her removed from the prosecution over her romantic relationship with a colleague. It's the first time charges in any of Trump's four criminal cases have been dismissed, with the judge saying prosecutors failed to provide enough detail about the alleged crime.



Fulton County Superior Judge Scott McAfee presides in court, Feb. 27, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

The sprawling indictment charges Trump and more than a dozen other defendants with violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, known as RICO. The case uses a statute normally associated with mobsters to accuse the former president, lawyers and other aides of a "criminal enterprise" to keep him in power after he lost the 2020 elec-

tion to Democrat Joe Biden. Defense attorneys applauded the ruling, which came after challenges to the indictment from Trump, former New York mayor and current Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and attorneys John Eastman, Ray Smith and Robert Cheeley. They have all pleaded not guilty. "The ruling is a correct ap-

plication of the law, as the prosecution failed to make specific allegations of any alleged wrongdoing on those counts," Trump attorney Steve Sadow said. "The entire prosecution of President Trump is political, constitutes election interference, and should be dismissed." Jeff DiSantis, a spokesperson for Willis, declined to comment other than to say prosecutors

were reviewing the ruling. The six challenged counts charge the defendants with soliciting public officers to violate their oaths. One count stems from a phone call Trump made to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican, on Jan. 2, 2021, in which Trump urged Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes."

Another of the dismissed counts accuses Trump of soliciting then-Georgia House Speaker David Ralston to violate his oath of office by calling a special session of the legislature to unlawfully appoint presidential electors.

McAfee said the counts did not allege sufficient detail regarding the nature of the violations.

"The lack of detail concerning an essential legal element is, in the undersigned's opinion, fatal," McAfee wrote. "They do not give the Defendants enough information to prepare their defenses intelligently." McAfee's order leaves Meadows facing only a RICO charge. Jim Durham, a lawyer for Meadows, declined to comment. □

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to announce vice presidential running mate March 26 in California

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. plans to announce a running mate for his independent presidential campaign on March 26 in Oakland, California, his campaign said Tuesday.

The campaign did not say whom Kennedy will pick, but he told The New York Times this week that NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers and former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura are among the frontrunners.

Kennedy is making an unusually early announcement because of ballot access rules in many states that require independent candidates to name their

vice presidential nominees before they can begin the process. Ballot access for independent candidates

is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor, with rules varying vastly across states.



Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., speaks during a campaign event at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, in Miami.

Associated Press

Kennedy's father was attorney general for the candidate's uncle, President John F. Kennedy. He began his presidential campaign as a primary challenge to Democratic President Joe Biden but later changed gears to run as an independent.

His bid for the presidency, along with his embrace of conspiracy theories and views on vaccines that aren't supported by scientific consensus, have angered many of his famous relatives.

Kennedy is a lawyer and environmental activist who has found a loyal following among people who believe vaccines are harmful.

He's energized supporters alienated from the political system and distrustful of the government, corporations and media.

Candidates from outside the Republican and Democratic parties rarely make a splash, if they can make the ballot to begin with. But third-party candidates don't usually carry a famous last name like Kennedy's, or his existing network of supporters.

Rodgers, the longtime Green Bay Packers quarterback who now plays for the New York Jets, shares Kennedy's distrust of vaccine mandates and, like Kennedy, is a fixture on anti-establishment podcasts. □

A Massachusetts town spent \$600k on shore protection. A winter storm washed it away days later

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A Massachusetts beach community is scrambling after a weekend storm washed away mountains of sand trucked in for a nearly \$600,000 dune that was meant to protect homes, roads and other infrastructure.

The project, which brought in 14,000 tons (12,701 metric tonnes) of sand over several weeks in Salisbury, was completed just three days before Sunday's storm clobbered southern New England with strong winds, heavy rainfall and coastal flooding.

The Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change group, which facilitated the project and helped raise funds, posted on social media about the project's completion last week and then again after the storm. They argued the project still was worthwhile, noting that "the sacrificial dunes did their job" and protected some properties from being "eaten up" by the storm. It's the latest round of severe storms in the community and across Massachusetts, which already suffered flooding,



The remnants of East Beach Road are damaged after heavy overnight winds and surf battered the coastline, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 in Westport, Mass.

erosion and infrastructure damage in January. Sand replenishment has been the government's go-to method of shore protection for decades. Congress has long appropriated money for such work, arguing it effectively protects lives and property and sustains the tourism industry.

But critics say it's inherently wasteful to keep pumping

sand ashore that will inevitably wash away. Climate change is forecast to bring more bad weather, such as hurricanes, to the Northeast as waters warm, some scientists say. Worldwide, sea levels have risen faster since 1900, putting hundreds of millions of people at risk, the United Nations has said. And erosion from the changing condi-

tions jeopardizes beaches the world over, according to European Union researchers. Salisbury is also not the first town to see its efforts literally wash away. Earlier this year, after a storm destroyed its dunes, one New Jersey town sought emergency permission to build a steel barrier something it had done in

two other spots along the most heavily eroded section of its beachfront after spending millions of dollars trucking sand to the site for over a decade. The state denied the request and instead fined North Wildwood for unauthorized beach repairs. The Department of Environmental Protection has often opposed bulkheads, noting that the structures often encourage sand scouring that can accelerate and worsen erosion.

State Sen. Bruce Tarr, who is working to secure \$1.5 million in state funding to shore up the Salisbury dunes, says the efforts will protect a major roadway, water and sewer infrastructure as well as hundreds of homes which make up 40% of Salisbury's tax base.

"We're managing a natural resource that protects a lot of interests," Tarr said, adding that replenishing the dunes was one of the few options since hard structures like sea walls aren't allowed on Massachusetts beaches.

Still, others questioned the logic of continuing to replenish the sand. □

Associated Press

Montana man used animal tissue and testicles to breed 'giant' sheep for sale to hunting preserves

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A

Montana rancher illegally used tissue and testicles from wild sheep killed by

hunters in central Asia and the U.S. to breed "giant" hybrids for sale to private hunting preserves in Texas, according to court documents and federal prosecutors.

Arthur "Jack" Schubarth, 80, of Vaughn, Montana pleaded guilty to felony charges of wildlife trafficking and conspiracy to traffic wildlife during an appearance Tuesday before a federal judge in Missoula. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Beginning in 2013 Schubarth conspired with at least five other people in "a decade-long effort to create giant sheep hybrids" that would get high-

er prices from hunting preserves that allow people to kill captive trophy game animals for a fee, prosecutors said.

Schubarth used flesh obtained from a hunter who had killed a sheep in Krgyzstan belonging to the world's largest species of the animals Marco Polo argali sheep and used the genetics to procure cloned embryos from a lab, according to court documents.

The embryos were later implanted in a ewe, resulting in a pure Marco Polo argali sheep that Schubert named "Montana Mountain King," the documents show. Semen from Montana Mountain King was

then used to artificially impregnate other ewes to create a larger and more valuable species of sheep, including one offspring that he reached an agreement to sell for \$10,000, according to the documents.

Male argali sheep can top 300 pounds with horns up to 5 feet long, making them prized among some hunters. In 2019, Schubarth paid \$400 to a hunting guide for testicles from a trophy-sized Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep that had been killed in Montana. Schubarth extracted the semen from the testicles and used it to breed large bighorn sheep and sheep crossbred with the argali species, the documents show. □



A Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep grazes atop Penitente Peak in the Pecos Wilderness near Santa Fe, N.M., July 4, 2019.

Associated Press

Geert Wilders says he doesn't have support of likely coalition partners to become Dutch premier

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Geert Wilders, whose anti-Islam, anti-immigration rhetoric swept him to a stunning victory in the November election, said Wednesday he doesn't have the support of his prospective coalition partners to become the next Dutch prime minister.

Wilders took to X, formerly Twitter, to say that "I can only become premier if ALL parties in the coalition support that. That wasn't the case."

His comment came after media reported, citing unnamed sources, that a breakthrough in coalition talks announced Tuesday night was that the leaders of all four parties involved in drawn-out coalition negotiations would remain in parliament.

That sets up the likelihood of some sort of technical Cabinet made up of experts.

While it now looks like Wilders will not lead the government, he and his Party for Freedom will remain the driving force be-



Geert Wilders, leader of the far-right party PVV, or Party for Freedom, talks to the media after a meeting with speaker of the House Vera Bergkamp, two days after Wilders won the most votes in a general election, in The Hague, Netherlands, on Nov. 24, 2023.

hind the next administration.

Wilders did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. Other leaders involved in the talks also did not immediately comment.

But Wilders later added another comment on X to say that, one day, he still

wants to be prime minister. "Don't forget: I will still become premier of the Netherlands," he said. "With the support of even more Dutch people. If not tomorrow, then the day after tomorrow."

Because the voice of millions of Dutch people will be heard!"

After the Nov. 22 elections, Wilders' party holds 37 seats in the 150-seat lower house of the Dutch parliament. The four parties in government talks hold a combined 88 seats, giving them a comfortable majority. Polls since the election show that support for Wilders' party continues to

Associated Press

grow.

After two decades of trenchant opposition, Wilders seemed to have a shot at leading a nation that long prided itself on its tolerant society, but he has stepped aside in the interests of pushing through most of his agenda.

"I really wanted a right-wing Cabinet.

Less asylum and immigration. Dutch people number 1," Wilders said on X. "The love for my country and voter is bigger and more important than my own position."

The rise of the populist far right in a polarized political landscape has been underway for years in Europe but Wilders' election victory still came as a shock to the Netherlands and well beyond.

Wilders has often called for a ban on mosques, Islamic schools and the Quran, but in a concession to his prospective coalition partners in January, he withdrew draft legislation to implement the bans.

The Netherlands is not alone in seeing a shift to the right. □

Spanish police dismantle network that profited off families of dead migrants seeking repatriations

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Spanish police have dismantled a network that profited off families of dead migrants seeking to repatriate the remains of their loved ones, authorities said Wednesday.

Fourteen people have been detained and one person is under investigation in the southern cities of Almería, Murcia and Jaén, following a probe by Spain's Civil Guard. Authorities also seized 70,000 euros (\$76,000) in cash and several cars.

For years, the network made money by charging families in Algeria and Morocco for providing them often false information about migrants who had died at sea or whose bod-

ies have washed ashore in southern Spain.

The suspects also made the migrants' families sign illegal contracts for body identification and repatriation purposes, according to a police statement.

The suspects, who used fake profiles on social media to lure the relatives, collaborated with workers at public institutions with access to unidentified bodies at morgues and funeral homes.

The criminal network, believed to have been led by a Moroccan citizen, falsely told families of dead migrants that the only way to recover their bodies was through services the suspects offered, requiring advanced payment, police

said.

The suspects are being accused of fraud, revealing confidential information, disrespecting the deceased, belonging to a criminal organization, falsification of documents and bribery.

Families and relatives of tens of thousands of migrants who have died trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea often struggle to find, identify and repatriate their remains. While some international and local organizations try to assist families, the vast majority of missing migrants are never found and presumed dead.

Even when bodies are recovered, few are ever identified and procedures

needed for repatriation are complex and expensive, leaving them out of reach for most.

In Spain, only 50% of migrant deaths registered in

the country between 2014 and 2019 were identified, according to a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross. □



In this Thursday, June 28, 2018 file photo, a rubber dinghy used by Moroccan migrants is seen near Tarifa, in the south of Spain. Associated Press

South Africa's foreign minister says citizens fighting with Israeli forces in Gaza will be arrested

By **GERALD IMRAY**

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — South Africa's foreign minister says her country's citizens who fight in the Israeli armed forces or alongside them in Gaza will be arrested when they return home, deepening the rift between the nations after South Africa lay accusations of genocide against Israel at the United Nations' top court.

Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor made the comment earlier this week at a Palestinian solidarity event attended by officials from South Africa's ruling African National Congress party.

She also encouraged people to protest outside the embassies of what she called the "five primary supporters" of Israel and its military action in Gaza. She didn't name them but almost certainly was referring to the United States, the U.K. and Germany among others.

"I have already issued a statement alerting those who are South African and are fighting alongside or in



South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor addresses reporters after session of the International Court of Justice, or World Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

Associated Press

the Israeli Defense Forces: We are ready. When you come home, we are going to arrest you," Pandor said, to rapturous applause from the audience.

In December, the foreign ministry said that the South African government was concerned that some of its citizens or permanent resi-

dents had joined the IDF to fight in Gaza and warned that they could face prosecution if they hadn't been granted permission to do so under South Africa's arms control laws.

Those with dual South African-Israeli citizenship could be stripped of their South African citizenship, the for-

eign ministry said.

Pandor's comments represented an apparent hardening of the government's stance.

It's not clear how many South African citizens have fought for Israel during the current war in Gaza. South Africa has a significant Jewish population of around

70,000 people.

The South African government was a vocal supporter of the Palestinian people and a critic of Israel even before the current war.

The issue is close to the ruling ANC party and many South Africans, who for years have compared Israel's policies against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank with the treatment of non-whites in South Africa during its apartheid era of forced racial segregation and oppression.

Israel denies South Africa's charge that it has enforced a form of apartheid on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and strongly rejects the charge by South Africa in the International Court of Justice that it is committing genocide in Gaza. That case may take years for a verdict.

Israel has replied by accusing South Africa of being a representative of the Hamas militant group that attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 Israelis and taking 250 hostages back to Gaza, sparking the war. □

Denmark wants to conscript more people for military service - including women, for the first time

By **JAN M. OLSEN**

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Denmark wants to increase the number of young people doing military service by extending conscription to women and increasing the time of service from 4 months to 11 months for both genders, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Wednesday.

"We do not rearm because we want war. We are rearming because we want to avoid it," Frederiksen told a press conference. She said the government wants "full equality between the sexes."

Denmark currently has up to 9,000 professional troops on top of the 4,700 conscripts undergoing basic

training, according to official figures. The government wants to increase the number of conscripts by 300 to reach a total of 5,000.

The country is a member of the NATO alliance and a staunch supporter of Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion.

Foreign Minister Lars Løkke



Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen speaks during a press conference on strengthening the Armed Forces, at the State Ministry, Christiansborg, in Copenhagen, Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Associated Press

Rasmussen stressed that "Russia does not pose a threat to Denmark."

"But we will not bring ourselves to a place where they could come to do that," Løkke Rasmussen said.

All physically fit men over the age of 18 are called up for military service, which lasts roughly four months. However, because there are enough volunteers, there is a lottery system, meaning not all young men serve.

In 2023, there were 4,717 conscripts in Denmark. Women who volunteered for military service accounted for 25.1% of the cohort, according to official figures.

Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said the new

system would require a change in the law, which he said will happen in 2025 and take effect in 2026.

The security policy situation in Europe "has become more and more serious, and we have to take that into account when we look at future defense," Lund Poulsen said. "A broader basis for recruiting that includes all genders is needed," he said, adding it will create "a more versatile and more complete defense."

Under the plan for which there likely is a majority in the Danish parliament, conscripts will first spend five months in basic training, followed by six months in operational service along with supplementary training. □

Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in both at maximum and minimum speeds is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your



exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could and has caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit?

left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can

be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you.

So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! ☐



Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you

are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! ☐

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For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visi-



tors Nina and Stuart Maginnis from Orange, CA, USA. They wrote to us saying: "We love Aruba but this year we made our son very happy with a video and a picture we made for his birthday. He is a hard-working surgeon in Oregon, and he loved what we sent him. We are from California and al-

ways visit the Donky Sanctuary! So what Aruba means to me is that I was able to along with the donkeys wish my son a happy birthday!" Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!☑



(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash,

he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com

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Episode CX - 110 - Island Ancestors



NOORD — By approximately 3000 to 2500 years ago agro-potters from out the Amazon- Orinoco river basins started their journey spreading in a North Western direction. This they did mainly over land. Great obstacles had to be overcome during their journey. Other groups of these same areas chose the rivers to reach out to the Atlantic Ocean in to the Caribbean Sea. In time they perfected their vessels in to sea worthy canoes, capable to raveling alongside the coastline and the open

sea, reaching the isles of the Antilles.

These tropical rain forest farmers were Arawakan speaking people who colonized the northern and coastal areas of South America and almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea. Aruba was soon to be transformed in to an area where slash and burn or tropical forest agricultural techniques were introduced and practiced. This method of agriculture of clearing the land for agricultural purposes is associ-

ated with the cultivation of many tubers such as yuca, yams, sweet potatoes and probably some Musa varieties, like Bananas and . They cultivated many plants that could be grinded in to flour for the elaboration of their main staples such as arepa's, cachapas, ayacas, etc.

A more organized form of agriculture developed with the introduction of the American corn, a totally new crop that was developed in Mexico that changed the world. Also known as Indian corn or Zea Maize soon became the transformer of cultures, where simple and the ordinary use of clay is transformed in to the development of sophisticated ceramic artifacts of highly artistic mastery of the ceramic technics. In this way ceremonial ornaments where created in gratitude to the spirits of life and fertility's. Arubans are the descendant of South American tropical-forest farmers. These became the heirs of the land and later the legendary Caquetian tribe. They received the Spaniards on their arrival, when the cross was brought from the main land. At that time an organized society had established itself, responding to the main chief who lived on the main land. History mentioned many of



his frequent visits to his enchanted island.

Un like hunters and gatherers nomads before them, who had different sociocultural units consisting mainly of kin-based populations structured along lines of age and sex, without much in the way of economic, political, or religious based social-status differentiation. Social controls were largely based on kinship rights and obligations of a moral nature, except in cases of certain military activities that were often under the temporary leadership of special chiefs. In contrast to sedentarism, the richer technology and production of agricultural surpluses enabled villages to remain in the same place for many years. They were supported by a more adequate and dependable food supply, which included maize (corn), beans, squash, manioc, and tropical vegetables and fruits, as well as the riches of the mangroves forests and the Caribbean

Sea. The Caquetío and variants Caiquetio, or Caiquetia, are the Native Americans people of northwestern South America living along the shores of Lake Maracaibo at time of arrival of the Castilians, they conquered the islands Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp 297 592 2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

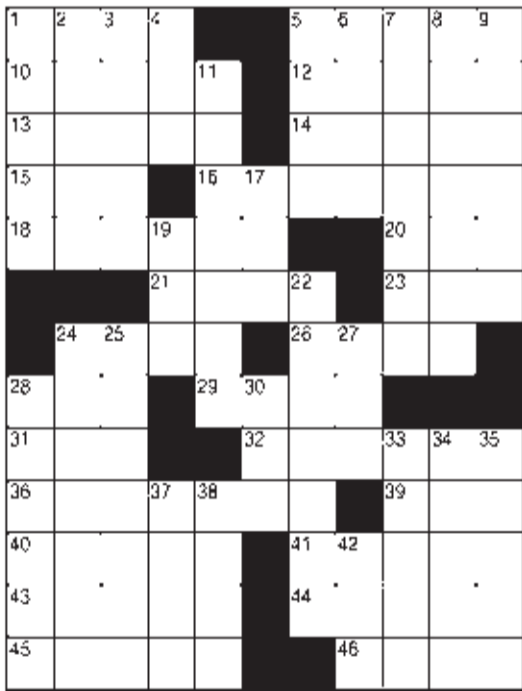
By THOMAS JOSEPH



- ACROSS**
- 44 Caller's need
 - 1 Florida city, for short
 - 5 Drive
 - 10 Not fitting
 - 12 Bangor's state
 - 13 Ocean measure
 - 14 Fourth-down plays
 - 15 Corn unit
 - 16 Dwells
 - 18 Play-ground sights
 - 20 Vein yield
 - 21 Feedbag fill
 - 23 Petite
 - 24 Come together
 - 26 Look after
 - 28 A thou thou
 - 29 Go to sea
 - 31 Early hour
 - 32 Lion groups
 - 36 Separates
 - 39 French friend
 - 40 Stay away from
 - 41 Hungry, probably
 - 43 Crew members
- DOWN**
- 1 Is patient
 - 2 Shaq of the NBA
 - 3 Blue Grotto setting
 - 4 Fitting
 - 5 Mischievous ones
 - 6 Haleakala setting
 - 7 Define
 - 8 Went in
 - 9 Tenant
 - 11 Menaces
 - 17 Superlative suffix
 - 19 Female rabbit
 - 22 Agitates
 - 24 SUV's cousin
 - 25 Raise
 - 27 Yale rooster
 - 28 Router connections
 - 30 Zoo dweller
 - 33 Willem of "Platoon"
 - 34 Correct, as text
 - 35 Flanks
 - 37 Creative germ
 - 38 Cubicle fixture
 - 42 Devils' grp.

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Superlative suffix
- 19 Female rabbit
- 22 Agitates
- 24 SUV's cousin
- 25 Raise
- 27 Yale rooster
- 28 Router connections
- 30 Zoo dweller
- 33 Willem of "Platoon"
- 34 Correct, as text
- 35 Flanks
- 37 Creative germ
- 38 Cubicle fixture
- 42 Devils' grp.



3-14

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

FQRUQIQ UH RUOQ! KRTKBE
 LDJKH FQUHZE TURR
 YCNZCQEE SN ZCQKS.
 FCNKWQC. KHW ODRRQC

RUOQ. — T.Q.F. WD FNUE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MISTRUST ALL ENTERPRISES THAT REQUIRE NEW CLOTHES. E.M. FORSTER

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

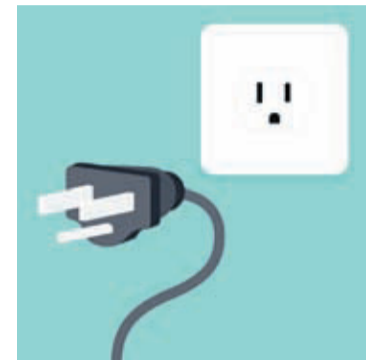
Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □

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'The Girls on the Bus' takes you on a soapy ride with reporters following presidential campaigns

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

Just in time for election year, a new Max series called "The Girls on the Bus" follows female journalists who are part of a traveling press corps with presidential candidates on the campaign trail.

These candidates are fictional but may be a reminder to people more familiar. They include Felicity Walker played by Hettienne Park who came close to winning the presidency four years prior and is trying again, and Hayden Wells Garrett, an "awe-shucks" widower war vet who is mayor of a Midwest town and considered a longshot. Scott Foley plays candidate Garrett. Mark Consuelos recurs as an action star seeking to add the role of president to his credits. The series premieres Thursday.

Julie Plec ("The Vampire Diaries") executive produces and co-created the show with Amy Chozick, who wrote "Chasing Hillary" in 2018, about following Clinton's presidential pursuits for the New York Times.

"You can literally equate this presidential election and the state of American



This image released by Max shows Melissa Benoist, from left, Carla Gugino, Christina Elmore and Natasha Benham in a scene from "The Girls on the Bus."

politics over the last decade to the worst reality show you've ever had to sit through," said Plec in a recent interview. "To be able to embrace that idea and put it into this show does make it feel really of the moment and yet also timeless."

Melissa Benoist produces and stars as Sadie McCarthy, a newspaper report-

er who romanticizes old school journalists by often wearing a short-brim fedora and imagining conversations with Hunter S. Thompson. When Sadie's not taking calls from her editor, played by Griffin Dunne, who demands "get me copy," she befriends three other female journalists on the road.

Grace, played by Carla

Gugino, is a respected seasoned reporter who has a knack for getting exclusives but whose relationship with her daughter has suffered because she's rarely home. There's also Kimberlyn, a Black on-air reporter at a conservative cable news outlet, played by Christina Elmore. Lola, portrayed by Natasha Benham, is the newbie of the group who

Associated Press

works in new media, often going live on TikTok and writing a Substack newsletter. She scoffs at the traditional journalism practices of the other women.

Benoist was first approached about the series after she had wrapped a six-season stint as "Supergirl." She was enjoying the break by taking her son to the park when she got a call about "The Girls on the Bus."

"I've always considered myself a really informed citizen," said Benoist. "I still get a hard copy of the New York Times every day. But I did not know anything about the field. And I have to say, I have such a newfound respect for journalism and political journalism, especially the people that are on the campaign trail. I look at my news so differently now, and I really loved learning about it."

To prepare, Chozick gave Benoist a list of materials to check out, including Alexandra Pelosi's "Journeys with George," a documentary from her time as an embed covering then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush's run for president in 2000. Chozick also suggested the

Chris Wallace looks back at Nixon-Kennedy election in the book 'Countdown 1960'

NEW YORK (AP) — Long-time newsman Chris Wallace isn't only thinking about this year's presidential election.

The CNN anchor has written a book on the race between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, narrowly won by Kennedy, that featured the first televised presidential debates. Dutton announced Wednesday that "Countdown 1960: The Behind-the-Scenes Story of the 311 Days that Changed America's Politics Forever" will be published Oct. 8.

"The 1960 presidential election changed everything," Wallace said in a

statement.

"It was the first to be conducted largely on television.

The first to feature debates between the two major party candidates. The first where both candidates were born in the 20th century."

Wallace added: The 1960 campaign was "marked by allegations the election had been stolen," a precursor to Donald Trump's baseless allegations that the 2020 election was stolen and that he did not lose to Joe Biden.

Wallace co-wrote the new book with Mitch Weiss, who also collaborated

with Wallace on the best-sellers "Countdown 1945"

and "Countdown bin Laden." □



Moderator Chris Wallace speaks as President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden participate in the first presidential debate in Cleveland on Sept. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

book "What it Takes: The Way to the White House" by Richard Ben Cramer. "I went through withdrawal when I was done with that book," said the actor.

"I see so much more than a byline now on an article, and I'm so glad to have that perspective. Now I digest news very differently." Aside from media and politics, Benoist and Gugino's favorite thing about the series is that it underscores the relationship of the core four women.

"You have these complicated, interesting women who all come from different backgrounds, different ideologies, different generations, and they are theoretically competitors, yet ultimately end up valuing each other over any of that," said Gugino. □

Atlanta has lost two NHL teams. Former player Anson Carter leads one of two groups seeking a third

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — After losing both the Flames and the Thrashers, Atlanta is making a third bid to land an NHL team.

Former player Anson Carter announced Tuesday he's heading a group that made a formal request to the league to begin the process of adding an expansion team in metro Atlanta.

Carter's group is the second to express serious interest in bringing another team to Atlanta, which was home of the Flames from 1972-80 and the Thrashers from 1999-2011.

Both teams relocated to Canadian cities: the Flames to Calgary and the Thrashers to Winnipeg, where they are now known as the Jets because of ownership issues and slumping attendance.

Ryan Smith, owner of the NBA's Utah Jazz, also has put in a bid for an NHL expansion team in Salt Lake City.

The league has said it's not ready to consider adding to its current 32-team lineup, but also has made it



Former NHL player Anson Carter delivers remarks during a news conference to announce the formation of the Player Inclusion Coalition, Tuesday, June 27, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

clear it is willing to discuss a new team with any group that reaches out. The expansion fee could be at least \$1 billion.

The NHL is unlikely to move forward on expansion until it resolves the arena situation for the Arizona Coyotes, who currently play in a 4,600-seat college rink.

"The league appreciates Anson's passion for bring-

ing NHL hockey back to the Atlanta area, and he has certainly kept the subject on our radar screen for several years running," Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said. "While, as we have made clear, we have no expansion-oriented process in place currently, it's always good to know there is bona fide interest."

Carter, who played with

eight NHL teams from 1996-2007 and has lived in Atlanta for 15 years, is leading the Alpharetta Sports & Entertainment Group, based in the prosperous suburb about 30 miles north of downtown Atlanta.

The group is proposing a new Frank Gehry-designed arena that would be constructed at a redevelopment of North Point Mall.

"I have no doubt that the best league in the world will thrive in its return to Metro Atlanta," Carter said. "I have been in dialogue with Commissioner (Gary) Bettman since 2019 about an expansion team returning to the Fulton County Metro Atlanta market, knowing that NHL franchise decisions are exclusively decided by the NHL Board of Governors."

Suddenly, a city that has been without a hockey team for more than a decade has two groups vying for a franchise in a league that is riding the wave of hugely successful expansion teams in Las Vegas and Seattle.

Atlanta businessman Vernon Krause has proposed an 18,000-seat arena as part of a massive mixed-used development in southern Forsyth County, less than 10 miles north of the arena proposal by Carter's group.

Last week, Krause told WSB-TV that he and his wife recently visited New York and met with Bettman and Daly to discuss a possible expansion team. □

Carlos Alcaraz advances to quarterfinals at Indian Wells. Jannik Sinner wins 18th straight match

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz avenged a previous loss to Fabian Marozsan, winning 6-3, 6-3 on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open as the top remaining seed in the men's draw.

A day after "lucky loser" Luca Nardi stunned No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the third round at Indian Wells, Alcaraz advanced easily over the Hungarian who ousted him from the Italian Open in May. Marozsan was a qualifier and the No. 135 player in the world when he upset Alcaraz then on the verge of taking the top spot in the rankings 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the third round in Rome.

"Honestly, I was nervous before the match. I'm not going to lie," Alcaraz said. "Playing against someone that beat you. ... Today I knew what I had to do."

Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner beat Ben Shelton 7-6 (4), 6-1 later Tuesday for his 18th consecutive victory. The third-ranked Italian has won 15 matches in a row to start 2024, claiming titles at Melbourne and Rotterdam. It was the 150th hard-court victory for the 22-year-old Sinner, who became first player born in the 2000s to reach that milestone.

Sinner had a set point, up 5-4 and 40-30 in the first, before Shelton was saved by a net cord. It then took

Sinner another 15 minutes to close out the first set; in the second, he went up 3-0 and coasted to the victory. Sinner advanced to the quarterfinals to play Jiri Lehecka, a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Alcaraz, the defending champion at Indian Wells, dropped the first set in his opening match this year but has lost just 12 games in the other six sets. He will face Alexander Zverev, who rallied after losing the first set to Alex de Minaur and won 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

On the women's side, top-seeded Iga Swiatek had a 6-1, 6-2 win over Yulia Putintseva, Caroline Wozniacki beat Angelique Kerber 6-4, 6-2 in a contest



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, celebrates after defeating Fabian Marozsan, of Hungary, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

between two former No. 1-ranked players, Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk fended off Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

of Russia 6-4, 6-1, and Anastasia Potapova defeated Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 0-6, 6-3. □

Scheffler is chasing history in The Players Championship. No one has ever repeated as champion

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Tiger Woods never did it. Neither did Jack Nicklaus, even before The Players Championship found its home in a former swamp now known as the TPC Sawgrass.

This is the 50th edition of the PGA Tour's premier championship, and no one has ever defended his title. Next up is Scottie Scheffler, and the odds are as much in his favor as any of the previous winners.

That includes Woods, who only got one crack at it in 2002, didn't break 70 and tied for 14th.

"I just think it's a golf course



Scottie Scheffler hits from the bunker along the second fairway during a practice round for The Players Championship golf tournament Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

where you don't see a lot of repeat winners in general," Scheffler said. "There's not a guy that you have seen win on this golf course a bunch."

Only five players have won twice on the Stadium Course at the TPC Sawgrass. Nicklaus won The Players three times, but that was before it moved permanently to this Pete Dye arena of endless thrills and that one (mostly) island green on the par-3 17th.

Scheffler is the No. 1 player in the world, the first time the defending champion of The Players has been atop the world ranking since Jason Day in 2016. The difference is Scheffler arrived at Sawgrass straight from a dominant performance to win at Bay Hill by five shots.

Already the best from tee-to-green, his putter finally came to life and the rest of golf's best had every reason to be nervous.

"I've personally had some really, really nice ball-striking weeks," FedEx Cup champion Viktor Hovland said. "But for him to have done that for so long and won so many tournaments that he's done the last couple years is very, very impressive. Because you get into periods of times where you feel like you can't miss and you're hitting it on a string, but then next month it might feel a little bit difficult. He just seems to keep doing what he's doing."

Scheffler has been No. 1 for the last 10 months, and it's not difficult to do the math. Along with three victories in the last year that includes the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas he has finished out of the top 10 only three times in 22 tournaments.

How that translates to Sawgrass is yet to be seen, even on a course where a year ago it looked as though he was playing alone. He led by six shots at one point and won by five shots, just as he did at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. □



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